

I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. If we are to be a leading nation we have got to have well educated citizens, especially in 21st century skills and digital citizenship. Access to the internet is critical in the development of collaboration, creative, communication and critical thinking skills necessary for STEM professions. And today the instructional tools need to be in the hands of the students. Bandwidth for one computer in the classroom is not enough! With 1:1 and BYOD initiatives, students have got to be able to connect, and for many the school is the only place where they can. The E-Rate program has been a phenomenal success in bringing internet access to almost every classroom in America. In the last funding cycle, applications from schools and libraries requested a total of more than \$5 billion—twice the amount of available funding. I respectfully urge the FCC to increase funding for the E-Rate program to at least \$5 billion to meet this demand. All students need access to high-speed broadband. Our nation's future depends on their success.